After Seven Months of Renovations, the Berkshire Museum’s Second Floor Reopens Friday, August 6 with Five New Exhibitions

Restored and modernized galleries are joined by new program spaces and convenient amenities

[Pittsfield, MA] – August begins a new chapter at the Berkshire Museum as the community landmark welcomes guests back to its newly updated second floor. Beginning Friday, August 6, visitors to the museum will enjoy five original exhibitions, two new learning spaces, and convenient amenities on the second floor. Berkshire Museum members are invited to explore the new spaces during special Member Preview Days August 2 through 5.

Three feature exhibitions and two gallery shows that bring to life the museum’s rich collections, showcase local artists, elevate the voices of the Berkshires’ first residents, and explore what it is to be human will make the most of new walls, floors, state-of-the-art lighting, and exhibition case work installed over the last seven months:

- **Muh-he-con-ne-ok: The People of the Waters That Are Never Still**, presented in partnership with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, tells the Indigenous nation’s story from early history to modern culture and beyond from their own perspective. In addition to the 2,500 sq ft exhibition, this show will expand beyond the museum to collaborating locations county wide. A complete description is attached to this release.

- **Objects and Their Stories** dives deeply into the Berkshire Museum’s collection of more than 40,000 art, science, and history objects to reveal fascinating stories about the ways humankind has shaped, and been shaped by, the world around it. This semi-
permanent exhibition will perpetually shift and change over time to show off more of the collection than ever while revealing surprising new perspectives on the human experience at every visit. A complete description is attached to this release.

- **The Land of the Thunder Dragon: Bhutan Through the Lens of Mead Eagle Photography** showcases a collection of informal portraits, breathtaking landscapes, and lively scenes created over a series of visits to the mountainous Asian nation of Bhutan from 1999 to 2011 by internationally-acclaimed local photographers Sally Eagle and Dan Mead. Sally Eagle’s *Gravedigger, Cuba* was awarded second place in last year’s juried *Art of the Hills: Narrative* exhibition. A complete description is attached to this release.

- A collection of **works by artist Alexander Calder** will be the first to grace the all-new casework in gallery 201, including his iconic toys and more.

- On the opposite side of the front staircase **Flooded River: Rose Dawn, a large-scale painting by artist Stephen Hannock** recently given to the museum by an anonymous donor, will debut along with a selection of other works from the museum’s collection in the redesigned gallery 209.

In addition to engaging new exhibitions, the second-floor renovation adds two flexible learning spaces – a studio and a science lab – to accommodate interactive, educational, and even messy programming just outside the galleries. Children enrolled in the museum’s popular summer camps will be the first to utilize these new spaces which will welcome visitors to engage in an exciting mix of adult and family programming for years to come.

“This is an exciting moment in the Berkshire Museum’s nearly 120-year history,” commented Executive Director Jeff Rodgers. “The updates we’re completing now will not only safeguard the museum and its collections for the next 100 years, but pave the way for bigger, better exhibitions, showcase more of our collections, and make visits more enjoyable and enriching for all of our visitors. I look forward to sharing these new spaces with our whole community.”
Renovations also add comfort and convenience to the second floor with new visitor amenities. Two family restrooms and a quiet seating area will create a space for families, individuals, and school groups to rest and recharge. The seating area will feature a modern, bottle-filling water fountain and sunny views of South Street through an original window that overlooks the front of the museum.

All of the new second-floor experiences will be included in regular museum admission starting August 6: $15 adult, $8 child, free for Berkshire Museum members, EBT cardholders, and children ages 3 and under. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, July 6. Reservations for Member Preview Days, August 2 to 5, will also be available starting July 6.

**About the Berkshire Museum**

Located at 39 South Street in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the Berkshire Museum combines art, science, and history to create thought-provoking experiences for the whole family through interactive programs, interdisciplinary exhibitions, and engaging online series. The museum’s first floor exhibitions and Aquarium are open daily. Advance registrations are recommended during peak times. Plan your visit at berkshiremuseum.org or go to explore.berkshiremuseum.org to enjoy the Berkshire Museum wherever you are.